

A meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee was held on Friday, April 20, 2012 at 9:05 a.m. in the board conference room in RIC's Roberts Hall.

Present: ASAC: Antonio Barajas; Tom Rockett; Jane Sherman; Jay Walsh (Chair)

RIBGHE: Tessa Constant

URI: Donald DeHayes, provost; Niall Howlett, assistant professor, cell and molecular biology

RIC: Fran Leazes, professor of political science; Ron Pitt, vice president for academic affairs; Leslie Schuster, professor of history; Holly Shadoian, assistant vice president for enrollment management; Earl Simson, dean of arts and sciences

CCRI: Lela Morgan, vice president for academic affairs

RIOHE: Joyce Fennell, planning assistant; Deborah Grossman-Garber, associate commissioner for academic policy and planning; Phyllis Harnick, planning specialist; Deanna Velletri, executive assistant

Guests: Michael and Nina Galvin

Absent: Joan Abrams; Ray Di Pasquale

**1. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of February 24, 2012**

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, IT WAS VOTED –**

**THAT the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approves the minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2012.**

VOTE: 4 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barajas, Rockett, Walsh

NEAS: 0

**2. Chair's Report**

Chair Jay Walsh welcomed committee members and gave an overview of the agenda.

**3. Commissioner's Report**

There was no commissioner's report.

**4. Approval of a Proposal from Michael and Nina Galvin to Operate *Aveda Institute Rhode Island* as a Proprietary School in Rhode Island**

Associate Commissioner Deborah Grossman-Garber thanked Michael and Nina Galvin for the hard work they exhibited meeting the demands of the Office of Higher Education and adhering to the Board's *Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools in Rhode Island*. Planning Assistant Joyce Fennell

provided an overview of the approval process. She also highlighted the academic offerings and the physical assets of the Aveda Institute Rhode Island. Michael and Nina Galvin spoke enthusiastically about the school and thanked the Office of Higher Education for their assistance in the approval process.

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, IT WAS VOTED:**

**THAT** the Board of Governors for Higher Education grant Initial Approval for MKG Beauty and Business LLC to operate *Aveda Institute – Rhode Island* as a proprietary school in Rhode Island

VOTE: 4 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barajas, Rockett, Walsh

NEAS: 0

**5. Approval of a proposal from the University of Rhode Island to suspend admission to the B.S. in Microbiology program and to establish the B.S. degree in Cell and molecular Biology (CMB) with tracks in Microbiology, Biotechnology, and Biochemistry**

Provost Don DeHayes said that the establishment of the B.S. degree in CMB with tracks in microbiology, biotechnology and biochemistry is consistent with the University's strategic planning. He said the University engages in strategic reinvestment on an annual basis where funds are moved to align with priorities. Professor Niall Howlett gave an overview of the program. He said the new program better serves the educational needs of students in this arena. In response to Governor Rockett's query, Professor Howlett said that only some courses would be offered as 4-credits such as genetics. He said the new faculty positions would be research funded. In response to Governor Constant's question regarding transferability, Professor Howlett said the current transferability to microbiology would not be affected.

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, IT WAS VOTED:**

**THAT** the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the suspension of admission to the Bachelor of Science in Microbiology at the University of Rhode Island; and

**THAT** the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the establishment of a B.S. degree at the University of Rhode Island in Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB) with tracks in Microbiology, Biotechnology, and Biochemistry.

VOTE: 4 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Barajas, Rockett, Sherman, Walsh

NEAS: 0

**6. Notice of a Change from Rhode Island College to offer the B.A. in Public Administration**

Vice President Ron Pitt said that this change is one of many changes that will be coming forward as a result of the revision of RIC's general education offerings. He said that prior to this change, public administration was offered only as a second major. Associate Commissioner Deborah Grossman-Garber added that transferability will be addressed by the College.

As this item was informational only, no vote was taken.

**7. Notice of a Name Change at Rhode Island College from the “Women’s Studies” program and B.A. degree to the “Gender and Women’s Studies” program and B.A. degree**

Professor Leslie Schuster said that the Women’s Studies has been offered at RIC for 35 years and is one of the oldest of its kind in the country. She said the name change more accurately reflects the current program. In response to Governor Sherman’s question about career goals of graduates of the program, Professor Schuster said that about 50% of students in the program chose Women’s Studies as a second major (commonly paired with psychology, history, law and counseling) because it expands the opportunities for graduates. Chair Walsh commended the College for broadening its offerings in this area.

As this item was informational only, no vote was taken.

**8. Discussion on strategic planning for the Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

Chair Walsh initiated the discussion on the important matters that the ASAC may consider going forward. The following topics were brought forward to be discussed in detail in the future –

- The current financial condition of the state warrants us to encourage the schools to look at duplication, cooperation and elimination and make recommendations to us regarding these matters.
- Review board regulations to maximize capacity.
- Bring forward policies.
- Lack of available classes.
- Innovative teaching.
- Bring professors together to talk about what works.
- Systemwide innovation.
- System: what does it mean operationally?
- Mission creep.
- Developmental studies that each institution is required to offer but is not funded. On-line refresher (i.e., Khan Academy) offered at the system level.
- Faculty rewards/incentives vs. support of experimentation.
- Competitive program funding.
- Each institution submit ideas on how to showcase how the institution “shines with statutory obligation of oversight.” Submission should include both academic and student initiatives.
- Separate academic and student issues; student issues tend to get overlooked with current committee structure vs. keeping the current structure with renewed intentions to deal with student issues, including input from student advisory.
- Institutional self-management vs. the role of the board/OHE and committee oversight. “What are we looking for in a system office?”
- Sharing of information and best practices among campuses.

**9. Other Matters**

There were no other matters discussed.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.